

Section VI

In Section VI, the Working Group specifically responds to each of the six directives from SECY-99-250.

Responses to SECY-99-250 Directives

SECY-99-250 directed the Working Group to respond to six issues.

When the Commission established the National Materials Program Working Group in SECY-99-250, it indicated that the following six issues were key to defining and implementing future state and federal roles under a National Materials Program and should be addressed by the Working Group's report. The Working Group's response to each of the directives follows.

1. Development of an overall program mission statement with defined top level goals and objectives.

Mission The mission of a National Materials Program is to provide a coherent national framework for the regulation of hazards associated with radioactive material.

Goal Protection of public health and safety while effectively using regulatory resources.

Objectives • Optimize resources of federal, state, professional, and industrial organizations

- Account for individual agency needs and abilities
- Promote consensus on regulatory priorities
- Promote consistent exchange of information
- Harmonize regulatory approaches
- Recognize state and federal needs for flexibility

2. Delineation of the respective roles and legal responsibilities of NRC and the Agreement States, including OAS and CRCPD.

The roles and responsibilities of NRC, Agreement States, and other organizations will vary depending on the option or combination of options chosen by the Commission.

Under the recommended Alliance Option, NRC and Agreement States will function as partners. The roles and responsibilities of NRC and states will be based on their program needs and expertise. There would be no changes to legal responsibilities, except for the acquisition by NRC of the authority to regulate discrete NARM.

Adoption of the Alliance Option could serve as the framework for participation and involvement of other stakeholders, including OAS, CRCPD, HPS, and standards developing organizations.

Responses to SECY-99-250 Directives - cont'd

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3. Delineation of the scope of activities to be covered by the program and the need for statutory changes at both state and federal levels.

In order to establish a comprehensive national regulatory program, discrete NARM would be regulated similarly to AEA materials, which would require statutory authorization.

Under an Alliance, the scope of types of activities performed by the NRC and states would remain essentially the same, but the intensity of those activities may vary.

4. Establishment of formal program coordination mechanisms.

An Alliance consists of regulatory decision-makers from state and NRC program managers, an administrative core to coordinate and provide logistical support, and stakeholders to provide information and support to the Alliance.

The Alliance would be a structure through which national program goals and objectives are established and resources are coordinated to implement those goals and objectives.

5. Establishment of performance indicators and a program assessment process to both measure program performance and to ensure program evolution.

The Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP), which is designed to assess individual regulatory programs, should be retained.

In addition, the Alliance should develop a National Materials Program assessment process using IMPEP-type principals to evaluate at least the following nationwide program indicators.

- Meet strategic health and safety goals
- Decrease time to develop regulatory products
- Increase participation by state programs in development of regulatory products
- Decrease the time for implementation of rules nationwide
- Decrease resources necessary for development of regulatory products
- Evaluate participation by licensees, stakeholders and other federal agencies in the development of regulatory products
- Maintain an adequate Information Infrastructure.

Responses to SECY-99-250 Directives - cont'd

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6. Provision/budgeting of resources at both state and federal levels.

Resource implications for NRC are included in the discussion of the Alliance Option in Section III. The resource needs are dependent upon the intensity of NRC's involvement in a National Materials Program. Overall, an Alliance would provide for better utilization of existing resources at both the state and federal level.